

10.28.20 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: Our Approach to Prayer

Scripture Reading: [Mark 10:13-16](#)

[read this text twice and take time to imagine yourself in this scene. What do you see? What do you hear? Who are you drawn to? Who are you most like? What are you surprised by?]

Reflection: Rev. Amy Schenkel

I don't like to cry when I watch movies, commercials, or especially viral you-tube videos. But I need a box of Kleenex nearby when I see one of those tear-jerking videos of a father or mother, having been away serving in the military, comes to child's school to surprise them with their arrival. (I dare you not to cry with this compilation: <https://youtu.be/kaBTavbOmy>)!

These kids, no matter their age, when they see their parent, drop everything, and come running into the safe and loving arms they've been longing to feel again. I can't help but bite my lip as the tears fall down my face!

This week Pastor Doug reminded us about how essential prayer is for those who know God as their loving Father. He encouraged us to think about why, if prayer is so powerful and so essential, don't we spend more time praying?

I wonder if the answer is in how we approach prayer- like a chore or like a child?

Sometimes prayer can seem like a chore. It is something we have to put on our schedule to make time for. It is on our checklist of things to do today. It is a perfunctory pre-meal task. And we feel guilty if we miss a day because we didn't accomplish the goal we set for ourselves.

But what if we approach prayer like a child? Could we come to Jesus in prayer like the child who is overjoyed to be wrapped up in her parent's embrace? Like the child who can't wait to spend time with their parent once again? Like a child who knows that someone they need has been missing from their life?

In the passage we read today, Mark ends with this wonderful verse: "And he [Jesus] took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them." I've often read this scene with a focus on the condescending disciples or the welcoming Jesus, as an instruction for how we are to be a multi-generational family of God. But today I read this passage from the perspective of these children. What must it have been like to be welcomed, touched, and blessed by the most loving person on earth? What was it like for this well-respected teacher to advocate for their presence and their worth?

When we come to Jesus in prayer like a child, we run into God's loving arms, feel the comfort of God's embrace, and experience the blessing of God in our hearts and lives.

Prayer:

Jesus, I come to you today as your child, made in your image, loved by you. Help me to run towards you like a child, that I may know and receive the Kingdom of God. Draw me near to you so I can feel the comfort from your embrace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Action Item for the Day/Week:

As you pray this week, begin by spending a few moments in silence, imagining yourself being welcomed and embraced by Jesus.

Song for today:

[Come to Jesus](#) by Chris Rice